USA GYMNASTICS

Official Magazine of the United States Gymnastics Federation

September/October 1984

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Cover story:

The Olympics, held this time in the glitter of Los Angeles The USA created more stars than Hollywood when the men's gymnastics team captured the team gold and the women's team waltzed away with the silver

On the cover: The Gold makes all the pain worth the effort.

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Publisher: Mike Jacki, Executive Director USGF Consulting Editor: Rich Kenney USGF Director of Communications Marketing Managing Editor Advertising Director: Debbie Forsten Artist/Photographer: Dave Black Production Director Editor: Mike Jotkin

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USGF EDITORIAL

. . . And Now The Work Begins

As millions of Americans watched the Olympic Games, a new era of gymnastics was unfolding for all of us. After waiting eight long years to regain the needed exposure provided by the Olympic Games, the opportunity came with a greater impact than we could have ever hoped for.

Without a doubt, gymnastics was the fire of the Games. Our athletes were superb in their performances and in their interviews. It made our sport shine brighter than the rest. Within days the newspapers were heralding the new enthusiasm around the country. A resurgence of interest was spreading quickly. Gym clubs were deluged with phone calls. Clubs could not find instructors to fill the demand of the new increased enrollment. The end of the rainbow was filled with Olympic gold and a fresh burst of energy and public awareness. We all felt the joy and success. It was long overdue.

We do not have to get out our history books to help us remember similar occurrences during the 1972 and 1976 games. True, a Soviet named Olga and a Romanian named Nadia perhaps cannot charm the American public like a Mary Lou, Bart, Peter or Mitch, but all the same, gymnastics flourished in 1972 and 1976. Its popularity soared and we all took advantage of it.

That brings us to a series of important questions. How can we best take advantage of the popularity gymnastics has gained at Los Angeles? How long can this new interest last and what can we do to maximize the benefits? There are still fundamental answers to these basic questions, most of which hold true with or without an Olympic Games. The truth of the matter is, now that we have achieved such great success in Los Angeles, our work will be more difficult than ever. It was not easy winning a gold medal. One should not expect it to be easy maintaining a "gold medal image." In all actuality, it is a very tough act to follow.

If you have 100 new club members today and then lose them all in six months, it won't be because of the decline of interest in gymnastics. We must make the commitment to run good, safe, quality and enjoyable programs as our primary goal. A child that has a good learning environment with good instructors in a well organized and well administered program will progress and enjoy their gymnastics experience. It is important to nurture these youngsters and provide the type of programs that will be challenging and rewarding.

We all have a responsibility to the children who join our programs and clubs. Fulfilling these responsibilities will strengthen our sport and help it to grow. All too often we only look at our own needs or the needs of a small portion of our athletes. Constant evaluation and reevaluation is necessary to meet the ever changing demands of your athletes and programs.

The key to maintaining the strength and spirit of the Olympic success is good quality programs. Good planning and organization are essential. Meet the challenge of the athletes. Provide them with first class instruction in a first class facility. Provide a professional setting that is motivating, exciting and enjoyable. If we all set our minds to this and make this our goal, the spirit of Los Angeles will live for a long time.

Mike Jacki
Executive Director

NATIONAL OFFICE NEWS

Update On NWP Committee

By Linda Chencinski
National Director

The Junior Olympic Program

The 1984-85 year will be an experimental season for the concepts of optional only competition and limitation of difficulties. In order to experiment with these concepts and to provide a logical continuity, the Class II level has been omitted for this season. This provides the opportunity for a gymnast to better master some optional skills before entering the next level of competition in the 1985-86 season. It also avoids the problem of learning a new set of compulsories which would only be valid for one year.

The optional only division does not replace the Class II level. It is a separate level, not like the other Class levels, because it lacks a defined Compulsory Division.

The optional division is divided into two levels based on score and difficulty limitations. Any gymnast could enter the optional only division provided they meet the following specific requirements.

Intermediate Optional

1. Open to any gymnast who has scored less than 31.00AA in a USGF sanctioned meet.
2. If a gymnast competes in the Intermediate Optional level and scores 31.00AA or better, she may remain in the Intermediate level or move to the Advanced level.
   —If a gymnast wishes to move to the Advanced level, she must score 31.00AA or better in the Intermediate level or have scored 31.00AA or more this season.
3. Difficulty Restrictions
   a. No Natural C or C* s may be performed.
   b. No C level vaults or vaults involving saltos (breath axis turns) may be performed.
   —In order to achieve full difficulty, a gymnast must perform value rated C's.
   —The maximum bonus possible is .1 for extra C because no OV-RV or C* is permitted.
   —Extra C could only be achieved by value rating.

Advanced Optional

1. Must have scored 31.00AA in a sanctioned meet the previous season or score 31.00AA in the Intermediate Optional level this season.
2. FIG rules.

In order to maintain consistency, the Class III C&O Division will use the same Optional rules as the Intermediate Optional Division. Therefore, there will be limited difficulty permitted.

The Optional Division is all around **only**. The intermediate level has a State Championship and the advanced level has a State and Regional Championship. Scores for championships are set by the appropriate State or Regional Board.

The Elite Program

The Elite Program is only for the truly talented gymnast. In time, perhaps, we will have an Elite Program of competition which closely parallels the Junior Olympic Program. This year on Elite Program will try to broaden its base and clearly define the objectives of the USGF in providing opportunities for Olympic caliber athletes.

* There will be three age divisions
Children — 9-13 years old
Juniors — 14 years old
Seniors — 15 and over
* In the 1985 calendar year

In addition to the American and US Classic meets, one more Elite competition has been added—this is the Elite Invitational. This competition provides a championship meet for:

1. All Juniors and Seniors who competed in the Class c meets but did not qualify to Championships of USA.
2. Seniors who scored 70.00AA or better at Regional Elites.
3. Juniors who scored 68.00AA or better at Regional Elites.

The children's elite division will be optional only at the Regional level and optional plus PSF testing at Classic meets. The Children's Championships of USA will be held in conjunction with the Elite Invitational meet when Men's and Women's Championships of USA are combined.

Classic Meets

In order to increase Regional participation and to provide more exposure to less developed Elite Regions, the following provisions will be enforced:

1. The top all around winner in each of the three age divisions from each Region, regardless of score, will advance to the Classic meet.
2. If two Regional qualifying meets are held before the American Classic, the highest all around score in each division, regardless of which Regional meet, will advance to the Classic.
3. If these gymnasts hit the qualifying score at the American Classic meet, they do not have to re-qualify at Regionals. (Otherwise, they must return to the next Regional meet.)

The Women's Committee strongly requests that you help evaluate the Junior Olympic Program and Elite Program for the 1985-86 season. We need to know your opinion about difficulty limitations for optional only levels and elite programming. Our planning meeting will be in May, June, 1985, so please send any comments to me by **April.**

Cajun Power Dominates Region VIII

By D. J. Milem

Chicago, Ill., would have to take a back seat to Memphis, Tenn., as the windy city during our Class I Regionals. In the last rotation a strange buzzing noise seemed to be coming from the fans in the end of the gym. What it was...however...were the TORNADO sirens warning that a funnel cloud had been sighted and we should take cover. Our meet directors were in phone contact with the Highway Patrol asking whether or not to evacuate the building. As it turned out a funnel cloud did touch down in one of the suburb communities but we didn't find this out until after the meet.

The meet was held on Good Friday and Saturday which could have been a factor in the sparse attendance (150 per session approx). The spectator seating was wonderful, however, as was the crowd control. It was held in the Memphis State Fieldhouse which held an estimated 3,000 spectators.

The competition format was the same as J.O. Nationals as all competitors warmed up in the gym adjacent to the main arena and were only on the competitive equipment for a 30 second touch and the actual competition. This made the meet seem very organized and uncluttered. It also made it more suspenful during optionals as the crowd did not see the girls attempting the same skills during warmups 20 times and again in the competition.

A rather unique scoring system on floor was put together by Mr. Katsu Kanzaki, one of the meet directors. Instead of using runners he had wired digital boxes at each of the judges tables with a L.E.D. screen at the head table. The judges merely turned two small dials (similar to the odometer in your car) and pushed the button. This method was much quicker between competitors as the runners were not a factor. On optionals the judges punched in the bonus first, and then the scores.

Result wise the Cajun power of Louisiana School of Gymnastics, coached by Bill and Lydia Jennings, finished with Mary Spence, Mary Jean Mylott and Rachelle Fruge finishing 1, 2 and 3 all around in the Senior division. The Atlanta Gymnats coached by Tom and Bunny Cook did almost as well in the Juniors with Missy Wysong and Tricia Fortson going 1 & 2.

Our Senior team to nationals were: Mary Spence, Mary Jean Mylott, Rachelle Fruge, Stephanie Kehr (Chacettes-Fla), Kelley Dean (Salem Gym Ctr-NC), and Carrie Arnesan (Gwinnett Ext.-GA). Juniors: Missy Wysong, Tricia Fortson, Dawn Newman (International-Fl), Tina Rinker (Baymeadows-Fl), Susan Alfieri (La Fleurs-Fl), and Jenny Herpok (Tumblebees-Fl).

Our Class II Regionals were held at Tift Area Academy outside of Tifton, Georgia in a rural southern community. The gymnasium and seating were very adequate but warm.

The state team concept was very exciting, it seemed as if club rivalries were forgotten momentarily as all coaches set bars and moved mats for each other.

Cajun power held true here as Louisiana captured the team title by more than six points, plus Misty Gautreau and Katrina Evans took 1st AA in the Junior and Children's division. Florida finished second team wise and Alabama humped Mississippi out for third.

Correction

In the May/June issue of USA Gymnastics it was erroneously reported the all around winner in the 15 up age group in the Region 3 USGF Class 7 Regional Championship meet in Dallas Texas was Claremore Oklahoma s Jennifer Hoot The actual all around winner in this division was **Suzy Steadman of Fort Collins Colorado** She not only won her age group but recorded the highest score of the meet 69 65 USA Gymnastics apologizes for this error

Benefit Performance Initiates Fund

By Toby Towson

On June 6 1984 at the Harkness Center in New York City Toby Towson produced a benefit performance and party to initiate an Artistic Fund for the United States Gymnastics Federation Several notables from the New York dance and gymnastics fields joined Towson on committee to invite friends and associates to support this Fund and enjoy a special evening of entertainment inside the magnificent Harkness Center in Manhattan

Committee members included Men s Olympic coach Abie Grossfeld Dick Cavett Lisa Cain Manhattan Gymnastics Center s Silva Cazacu celebrity photographer Kenn Duncan and choreographer Liz Thompson

After an environmental acrobatic duet down the marble staircase by Toby Towson and Jane Blount nearly 200 guests were seated in the grand ballroom where special lighting by Tony Marques created a theatrical and special effect for the rest of the performances First was a magical presentation by identical twins Li Li and May May Leung from Eastern National Academy (ENA) in New Jersey Li Li and May May danced the Class III USGF compulsory floor routine restaged for theater with optional tumbling

Kristen Purcaro also from ENA performed her optional routine which had been choreographed by Colleen Malvihill Michael Racanelli from Deerpark Gymnastics in Long Island represented boys gymnastics with a floor exercise choreographed by Towson Temple University s Bobby Fleming performed a dynamic and smooth floor exercise of his own creative design followed by a beautiful and lyric acrobatic dance choreographed by Silvia Cazacu for Lisa Cain Lisa is also a talented actress and teaches boys gymnastics at the School of American Ballet

It should be noted that all gymnastic performers had to considerably alter their normal routines to fit on a 24 foot by 22 foot theatrically lit area with the audience viewing only from the front rather than the traditional arena of competition None lived up to the challenge more

Kristen Purcaro Li Li and May May Leung join Abie Grossfeld and Toby Towson after the performance

beautifully than the next performer rhythmic gymnast Wendy Hilliard who flew in from Detroit to help support the cause Wendy s shining personality and creative moves with ball and ribbon delighted the audience

Towson performed an heroic acrobatic dance to Chopin s "Revolutionary Etude" played live on the grand piano by Eric Bernstein and later danced Michael Kessler s "Delphis" a popular number from the Kurt Thomas pro tour Michael Kessler and his partner Rachel Black added some extra class to the program with two lovely romantic adagios choreographed by Kessler The professional dancing was completed by another of Kessler s works "Rev Flip and the Space Rabbit" an outrageous inter-religious breakdance duet for himself and Towson

As an extra finale everyone enjoyed some serious breakdancing by gymnasts Daren Dembrow Jeff Shamimah and Chas Guest from Southern Connecticut who were joined by one of New York City s leading female breakers Coco Pop

Olympic great Peter Kormann was on hand to help with the introductions and Tim Daggett also attended

Following the show guests were treated to wine fresh fruit cheese coffee and desserts in the Harkness lobby where they could visit or retire to another studio for a cabaret setting of live jazz by William Galison Esther Blue and Chico Batista who also entertained at the beginning of the evening

Profits from the benefit will be used to support dance training and artistic excellence in USGF programs Committee members believe that the knowledge of the body gained through dance training not only insures greater beauty and form but also promotes safety and leads to the highest level of difficulty in today s gymnastics If you would like to aid this Artistic Fund your contribution to the USGF is tax deductible and should be designated specifically for the USGF Artistic Fund

If you know of a qualified dance teacher and choreographer with an aptitude for working with gymnasts please let us know about them The USGF is beginning to compile a list of such qualified people for possible work at training centers state Congresses and seminars for gymnasts coaches and judges If possible include a resume and biographical material as well as letters of reference

The art/sport of gymnastics has evolved tremendously in the past 20 years and we would like to see the artistic side keep pace with the difficult athleticism for the benefit of all gymnasts and gymnastics fans

Nadia's Farewell

By Nancy Roach

The "Farewell to Nadia" affair was a unique event to attend in that it was an exhibition instead of a competition. So the traditional "meet report" will be slightly different and, being that every participant received a gold medal for their performance, there will not be any final results.

The exhibition took place in Bucharest, Romania, Sunday, May 6, 1984. There were approximately 5000 spectators to view the 15 gymnasts from their respective countries, in addition to over 100 Romanian gymnasts performing individual events. The colorful group dances, rhythmic presentations and numerous synchronized routines performed by the native Romanian schools and clubs were exhilarating. It was a beautiful exhibition and thrilling to see all the festive costumes, innovative routines and creativity used to encourage their future gymnasts.

The countries in attendance and their gymnasts were as follows:

	Women	Men
Bulgaria	Boriana Stoianova	Plamen Petcov
China	You Xiang	You Jin Li
Czechoslovakia	Hana Ricova	
Switzerland	Romy Kessler	
Japan	Suzuki Nobuko	Kondo Shghemutsu
USA	Mary Goyer	Kevin Davis
Sweden	Lena Adomat	
Hungary	Cristina Koteles	Gorgy Gaczoghy
USSR	Nina Baraxanova	Dimitrie Belozertzev
Romania	Lavinia Agache	Aurelian Georgescu
Romania	Mirela Barbalata	Octavian Ionasiu
	Cristina Grigoras	Levente Molnar
	Simona Pauca	Emilian Nicula
	Mihaela Stanulet	Valentin Pintea
	Ecaterina Szabo	Marian Rizan

Each of the gymnasts were asked to perform on two events, some of the men on three events. The USA gymnasts, Mary Goyer and Kevin Davis performed on two events each. Goyer on the balance beam and floor exercise and Davis on parallel bars and pommels. Goyer's routine on beam was highlighted with flip-flap, flip-flop tuck, aerial cartwheel, round-off flip-flop and her unique acrobatic element to which the audience paid special applause. She finished her routine with no major breaks and was well received by her performance on both beam and floor. Davis had planned to perform on the floor and high bar but due to an ankle injury to workout he opted to do parallel bars and pommels.

Some of the routines with noted difficulty included Simona Pauca (Romania) on beam with a headspring mount, flip-flop layout, layout step-out, flip-flop pike, standing layout step-out to one foot scale, and back walkover flip flop double full dismount. Nina Baraxanova (USSR) with round off flip flop mount, gainer flip flop, gainer lay out, back walkover fish flop, beautiful high leaps and an electrifying round-off, full in double back dismount. She also performed a near perfect round off layout on vault. Another familiar name, Hana Ricova (Czechoslovakia), did a solid beam routine finishing with a high round-off double back dismount. She also had an exciting bar routine with three different releases. You Xiang (China) along with the lovely dance movements had such elements as round-off fish flop, side flip-flop to immediate back hip circle, and a precise landing from a round-off double back dismount. The most appropriate floor routine for our Olympic year was done by Ecaterina Szabo (Romania) dancing to a medley of Rhapsody in Blue, Dixieland, and the Battle Hymn of the Republic. She opened her routine with a full in double back and finished with a back double back. She too performed on bars, using one release, a toe on 1½ twist release on the low bar, dismounting with a fly away double back.

After the individual event exhibitions we were able to relax and enjoy the grand finale of the Romanian group demonstrations. It was during this portion of the show that Nadia demonstrated routines on beam and floor. She did a solid beam routine with an aerial front walkover, aerial cartwheel and a gainer flip-flop. On floor she mounted with a double full and finished with the famous Nadia pose we all know. It was nostalgic for all. After her floor routine, the presentation of gifts from all the visiting delegations were made in an elaborate ceremonious fashion. Speeches were made, culminating with a speech and medal presentation by Juan Antonio Samaranch. Immediately following we recessed to the hotel for a three hour banquet.

It was a fitting tribute to one who has helped inspire gymnastic excellence throughout the world.

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USA Gymnasts Find Road To XXIIIrd Olympiad Paved With Precious Metals

Men's Team Captures Gold
Women's Team Nets Silver

Mary Lou Retton Vaults To Gold All Around While Peter Vidmar Sticks With Silver

By Minot Simons II
Assisted by Mary Wright and Makoto Sakamoto

It was a dual success story gold for the men's team and silver for the men s all around silver for the women s team but gold for the women's all around It was all very significant for the future of American gymnastics

Kathy Johnson summed the accomplishment up when she said "I think we've just reset our standard We've proved we can be the best and we've shown the rest of the world Before we were just competing at the same time and hoping to be in the top six now we're right up there '

Women's Olympic Coach Don Peters amplified this by saying "If the Soviets had been out there it would have been another team fighting for the gold medal However the Czechs the East Germans and the Bulgarians would not have been as good as the three teams out there tonight

For the men s team victory was especially sweet After the world Championships in Budapest their goal had been to beat the Japanese and take third place behind the Chinese and Soviets Even after the Soviet pull out the goal remained that of being as close to the Chinese as they could yet still ahead of the Japanese

As for the men's all around, Peter Vidmar said, "I never expected to win a medal My goal had been only to be among the top six " Beating Li Ning and Tong Fei had not been a realistic possibility "

The one victory that was not only a possibility but also a probability was that of Mary Lou Retton in the women's all around In women's competition, it was really a dual meet with Romania, for the title of all around champion, it was a duel between Mary Lou and Ecaterina Szabo

The 1984 Olympic Gymnastics competition was notable for

1 Very high scoring, in general
2 The persistence of nationalistic bias in scoring.
3 The uniqueness of the U S men's team
4 The phenomenon of Mary Lou Retton.

High Scoring

In women s competition there were 16 10s among five competitors, in men s competition, there were 29 10s among 12 competitors Of 9 95 s and 9 90's there were far more It got to the point that no credit was being given for extra risk or difficulty The level of difficulty overall was so high that judges were only looking for what they could deduct A difficult routine with a stuck landing would get a 9 9, routine of superior difficulty but with a step on landing would also get a 9 9 The only way a superior routine with a stuck landing could be rewarded was with a 10 00 Consequently, 10s no longer indicated perfect routines, they indicated routines better than 9 95

To offset this situation a fourth grade of difficulty "D" moves will soon be added to the A B & C moves now in existence This "D" level will be for elements not only of great difficulty but also requiring great courage Not just risk but courage Thus, most of the routines performed in Los Angeles that scored 10 0 will be 9 9 or less at the 1985 World Championships in Montreal

Don Peters watches as Roe Kreutzer congratulates Mary Lou Retton for her stellar performance during the games (Below) The USA women s team takes to the field of battle From the right they are Mary Lou Retton Julianne McNamara Kathy Johnson Pam Bilock Michelle Dusserre and Tracee Talavera (USGF photos © 1984 by Dave Black for FIJI Film Inc)

Editorial Comment

The Persistence Of Nationalistic Bias In Scoring

Contrasted with the high scores were those that were too low. As always, political considerations were involved. During beam compulsories a Romanian judge gave Tracee Talavera a 9.4 while the other judges gave her 9.8 or 9.9. Such an extremely low score would, of course, be thrown out. However, it meant that the next lower score, which might also be unfairly low, would count. Such conduct is unethical and should have resulted in the judge's receiving a caution card.

After the morning women's compulsories there were loud and strong complaints about the judging and predictions that the Romanians, who had the more favorable evening draw, would be more easily treated. However, it turned out that the Romanians were just as severely scored and ended up only 0.45 points ahead of the Americans.

Nevertheless, the problem of nationalistic scoring persists. In men's compulsories the Chinese coach said, "We feel that it went pretty well, except that at the parallel bars, the Japanese and American judges scored a little bit low. So we regretted that."

Hope for the future rests for the moment in a decision taken at the FIG Congress to increase the number of judges from four to six at each apparatus. Such an increase will reduce the effectiveness of scores that are too high or too low for nationalistic reasons. We can look forward to this system at the 1985 Montreal World Championships.

The Men's Team

The emergence of the U.S. men's team as a force in gymnastics is one of the most gratifying developments in recent years. Twelve years ago in Munich the U.S. women's team was already fourth, but the men's team was tenth. To have moved up to a position among the top three teams in the world is an achievement of staggering proportions. The only disquieting question is, who will succeed the members of this team? Except that Mitch Gaylord replaced Phil Cahoy, this team is the one that went to the 1981 World Championships in Moscow. They have been together for three years.

When someone said to Bart Conner that winning an Olympic gold medal on parallel bars was a nice way to end his career, he answered, "who said I was going to retire?"

Mitch Gaylord later said, "this group is a special group. It would not be good for the sport if we all were to retire. Our duty is to continue and to put something back into the sport."

We can, therefore, be thankful that the members of the gold medal U.S. men's team are going to stay together, help new talent coming along and ensure a strong American representation at the 1985 World Championships.

Mary Lou Retton

The many 10s given at the Olympics do point up one development of great interest. It is as Coach Don Peters said, "There are so many good gymnasts that the sport is very competitive now. It's not like the old days when the Russians used to dominate everything." No longer is there one dominant star, like Ludmilla Turischeva or Nadia Comaneci. In both men's and women's gymnastics, there are many stars and there will continue to be many stars.

This leads us to the most interesting question arising from the Olympics: is Mary Lou Retton the shape of things to come in women's gymnastics or is she unique? There are argoments on both sides.

Bela Karolyi and his students Julianne McNamara and Mary Lou Retton. (USGF photo © 1984 by Dave Black for FUJI Film, Inc.)

Bela Karolyi, her coach, is convinced she is the future. "I realized from the very first moment," he said, "that this kid is a special type. She is the new idol of the gymnasts and I'm so glad we broke the tradition and introduced a small, little, junky kid who can tumble and who can make people excited and who can show this beautiful sport is everybody's sport. Everybody can get into it. It's the sport of everybody."

Karolyi also said, "She's a strong competitor. She's got the psychological power to go through the most difficult moment when everybody is falling apart. So many times in World Championships or Olympics, under pressure, kids are reacting very differently. Most of them react negatively and give less than their best performance.

"For instance, when she was scored 9.85 on the vault and at the same time Szabo got a perfect 10.0 on the beam, many other kids would give up. Very seldom do you see somebody who has the mental power to go through and go like a bulldozer to make it and finish strongly.

"Nadia was one of the kids who under my direction was developing in this aggressive style—going, going, going, care about nothing else.

"Mary Lou is more liberal. She is capable of looking around. When Nadia was a champion, she would never lift up her eyes. It was definitely her concern not to get distracted, not to let anything interrupt her concentration. That's why she was not smiling or looking up.

"Mary Lou can do it and that's her biggest advantage. She can communicate with the crowd. That's what the public likes and that's what makes her an even bigger champion."

Peters put it this way: "Mary Lou has two great qualities. One is physical. She's the most powerful gymnast I have ever seen. She takes great advantage of her power in vaulting and tumbling. Her other attribute is her competitiveness. As the pressure gets greater, she gets greater."

Mary Wright, choreographer and coach of beam and floor exercise, added that she's very quick and receptive. She eagerly receives advice and instruction given to her.

All these qualities add up to a gymnast who is far more than just powerful. She has more winning qualities than just power. It may be these other qualities are just as important. Furthermore, I have known other gymnasts who were powerful. Rhonda Schwandt is a good example. She was a very powerful gymnast who nailed down a gold medal for her Tsukahara vault in the 1978 "Moscow News" tournament. However, her career was plagued by injuries. Mary Lou has also had injuries. I think it would be safe to say that powerful gymnasts are particularly vulnerable to injuries. We can only wait and see what the future brings. In any case, I am not quick to jump to the conclusion that Mary Lou is the future. Rather I think she is a rare find; she is unique, a remarkable phenomenon.

We went nearly 50 years after Jesse Owens before we came up with Carl Lewis. I don't say we'll have to wait that long, but I do say Mary Lou's is a tough act to follow. I don't expect anyone to do it again very soon. It is more likely that Bela will come up with another gymnast of a more traditional type, who is very talented and who will win him a medal. Someone like Simona Pauca.

Mitch Gaylord (top) captured a bronze medal for his performance on rings *(USGF photo © 1984 by Dave Black for FUJI Film, Inc.)*

Highlights of the various competitions

Crowd reaction

The Chinese and Japanese men and the Romanian and Chinese women received just as much applause as the Americans when during compulsories they competed at different times. In reaction to this, Lou Yun of China said, "I feel that competing over here is very comfortable and the crowd has treated us in a very friendly way. It's just like competing at home."

However, in optionals, American audiences applauded the American teams most strongly. The Chinese coach later said "the crowd was very enthusiastic, but because of this enthusiasm and the loud noise, our performance was somewhat impaired."

The Romanian coach after women's optionals, said, "from our standpoint we had to take into account that the spectators were particularly enthusiastic and not for our team. That surpassed even the level of our resistance. The competition was genuinely open for all three teams."

In the all around and apparatus finals, the American spectators distinguished themselves. It is true that the American gymnasts got the loudest applause but good gymnastics was well received its due, no matter who performed it. This was especially true for Koji Gushiken in the men's all around and for Szabo for her 10.0 on beam during her battle with Mary Lou.

Men's Compulsories

Men's compulsories demonstrated the sort of performance that would carry the men through to team victory: outstanding performance by the top three men on each event but consistently high performance also by the fourth, fifth and sixth men.

Both teams were enormously strong. Li Ning and Lou Yun each got 10.0 on vault, Tong Fei and Xu Zhiqiang got 10.0 on high bar, and Li Ning and Li Xiaoping got 10.0 on pommels. In spite of this strength at the top end of each rotation, and despite the fact that Mitch Gaylord got 10.0 on parallel bars and Peter Vidmar got 10.0 on pommels, the overall performance of the U.S. team prevailed primarily because the last three American men performed better than the last three Chinese.

It helped that the U.S. competed at 6:30 p.m. while Japan and China performed compulsories at 9:30 a.m. Starting on rings also helped. It is an event on which the Americans are strong. It is also an event that enables a gymnast to get rid of nervousness, it is the least nervewracking of events. The momentum of a good score on this first event carried the U.S. team through to good scores on other events.

After Gaylord scored 10.0 on parallel bars, he had a problem on high bar. "On high bar compulsories," he said, "you try to get as close as you can to each of the handstand positions. There are seven of them. And the ultimate set goes to the handstand on all those skills. In the stalter pass, I took it a little too much over the top. I was over and I couldn't bring it back." He got a 9.40. Li Ning had a similar problem and got a 9.50.

Possibly his 10.0 on parallel bars just before affected him. "I don't know," Mitch said. "I think I was trying to go all out and take everything to the max. I should have learned by now, having done it for four years, that you don't take everything to the max in compulsories, but that's what I did."

Lou Yun and Bart Conner showed extraordinarily beautiful form in floor exercise and scored 9.95 each.

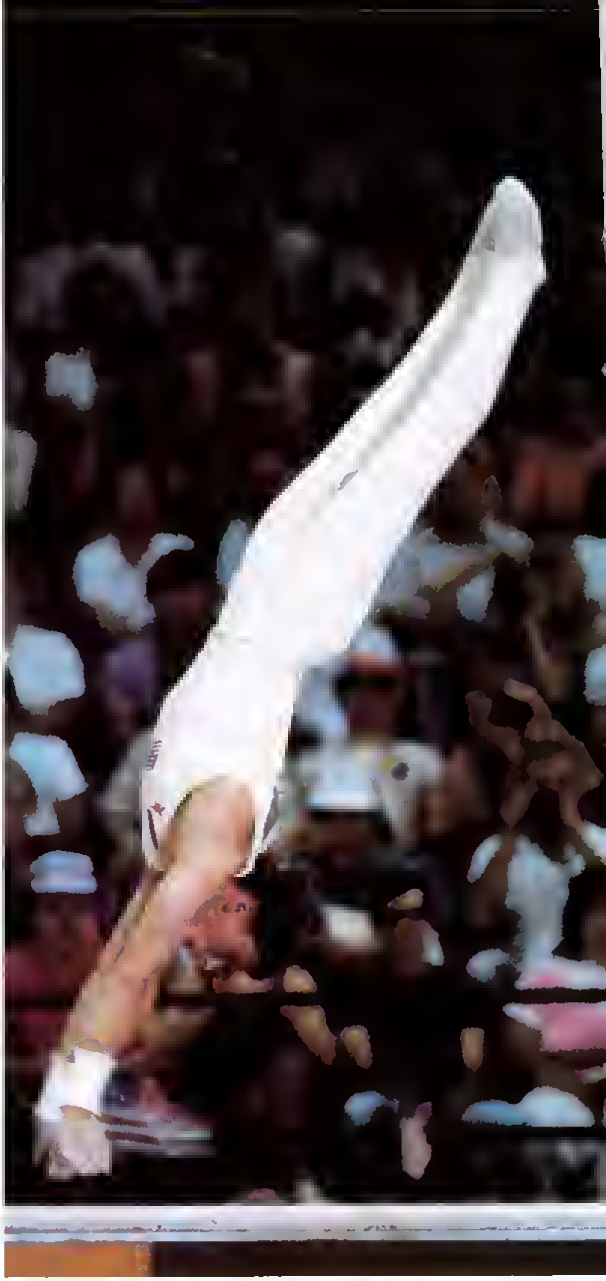
Both teams finished with a "wow" on pommels. Li Ning and Li Xiaoping both got 10.0 for China while Vidmar got 10.0, Tim Daggett a 9.95 and Gaylord 9.9 for the United States.

Lou Yun of China showed his sense of humor when asked why he sat on the pommel horse doing a back scissor. "My competition pants are too big," he said, "and I caught them on the pommels."

At the end of the compulsories, the United States led the Chinese by 1.05 points. The Japanese were 1.85 behind the Chinese.

Individually, Koji Gushiken and Vidmar were tied for first place at 59.25 while Li Ning and Conner were tied for 3rd place, only 0.2 behind.

(Continued on page 19)



(Left) Jim Harting's steady performance was just one of the reasons the men's team faired so well during the Games. (Above) Tim Daggett had a good meet, here performing on the parallel bars. (USGF photos © 1984 Dave Black for Fuji Film, Inc.)

(From page 17)

Men's Optionals

The excitement of the men's optionals evening which would decide men's team competition was caused by this very slim 1 05 lead over the Chinese that the U S men had going in Would they be able to hold their lead? At the end of each rotation, the pocket calculators quickly figured the current difference Of course, the marvelous result was the U S men did hold their own all the way through except in second rotation when the Americans got 49 10 on pommels and the Chinese had an unbelieveable 49 75 on rings—two 9 9's, a 9 95 and 10 0's for both Tong Fei and Li Ning This gain of 0 65 points for the Chinese was the only significant loss for the Americans

Before that the U.S. men had gained 0 25 in floor exercise, 48 95 to 48 70 for the Chinese who were on pommels Tim Daggett had a pause in his strength press to handstand and a step on his dismount his 9 5 score was thrown out Li Xiaoping fell from pommels, so his 9 35 was thrown out As in compulsories, the bottom three U.S men had higher scores than their Chinese counterparts

Third rotation was almost a standoff Mitch Gaylord got a 10 0 on rings and Peter Vidmar and Tim Daggett each got 9 9 while Lou Yun got 10 0 on vault. All the scores were high but the U.S gained two tenths, moving their lead back to 0 85

In fourth rotation, the Chinese gained back two tenths, having 49 55 on parallel bars to 49 35 for the Americans on vault It was an exceptionally fine performance by the Chinese there were four 9 9's and one 9 95, by Xu Zhiqiang The Americans were just a little bit back, having three 9 85 s and two 9 90's

This was the last time the Chinese were a threat. On parallel bars, the Americans lost only 0 05 to the Chinese who were on high bar, 49 60 to 49 65 Finally the Americans on high bar tied the Chinese on floor at 49 60 Thus, the Americans ended team competition with a lead of 0 60 over the Chinese

The last exciting moment came when, after Tim Daggett s great 10 0 on high bar, Vidmar knew he had only to perform a solid, good routine to clinch a U S victory To be on the safe side, he deleted one of his release moves He did everything else as he usually does, stuck his landing and got a 9 90 His jubilation and that of his teammates was the front page picture of next day s newspaper

Men's Optional Highlights

(See the Apparatus Finals section for complete routines.)

Bart Conner s 9 9 floor exercise, in which the crowd especially liked his beautiful third pass, punch front to immediate swan dive, straddle jump, into an immediate punch front to one knee stand.

The pommel horse routines of Li Ning, Peter Vidmar and Tim Daggett, which each earned 9 9 and which each end with flairs to handstand dismount.

The rings rotation for China which earned them 49 75 Mitch Gaylord's rings routine which earned him a 10 0 and capped a rotation of 49 5 for the U.S.A.

Vault gold medalist Lou Yun s 10.0 on vault.

Parallel bars gold medalist Bart Conner's 10.0 on this event.

Men's all around

In the men's all around, Koji Gushiken of Japan gradually moved up from fifth place to first In so doing he displaced Vidmar from first place to second Li Ning from second place to third and Tong Fei from third place to fourth.

The crowd followed his progress with interest and applauded him warmly It was one of the really good aspects of this Olympics, especially in the all around and the apparatus finals that the crowd took to its heart any gymnast who performed well

Vidmar was not surprised, noting that Gushiken placed third all around in the 1981 Moscow World Championships and second all around in the 1983 World Championships at Budapest In his quiet, conservative way, Gushiken was just moving up

Gushiken, 27 who is an instructor at the Nippon Physical Education College in Tokyo said the 1980 boycott was a big disappointment to him He had been a member of Japan's 1980 Olympic team and had trained hard for those games "I left Japan," he said, "with a determination to win a double gold, since I missed it in Moscow"

In winning the all around, Gushiken scored 9 9, 9 95, 10 0, 9 9, 9 95 and 9 9 "I have been doing gymnastics for 16 years now, so I knew if I do my pace, it will eventually come my way"

(Above) USA men's coaches Abie Grossfeld (left) and Makato Sakomoto adjust the parallel bars for the next routine (Right) Scott Johnson turned in a steady performance helping the men s team garner the gold. (USGF photos © 1984 Dave Black for FUJI Film, Inc.)

There were tears in his eyes as he sang his national anthem. Concerning his reaction he said, "Many people helped me get this medal. I had two big accidents in my life. While I was listening to my national anthem, things that had happened in the past, like the two accidents I had, went through my mind. Eight years ago, I had an operation on my left achilles tendon; later, while practising rings, I broke my left ankle. These accidents caused me to lose a year of training." Koji plans to be in the 1985 World Championships.

Vidmar was pleased with his silver medal, even though he lost the gold by only 0.025 points. "It was close," he said. "To think that all it took was half a hop here or half a step there to make the difference all the way through the entire competition. If I sit and think about 25 thousandths of a point, I'm sure it will eat away at me. However, I would not trade my gold medal on the team for anything."

Gushiken scored 59.6 in the all around and Vidmar scored 59.4. "That's a 9.90 average," Vidmar said, "the highest I've ever scored."

Vidmar's evening started out with high bar as his first event. "Usually you approach the first event very carefully, but that's the one event on which I went all out. I did give it a 10.0. It was because I did my full routine (three release moves). I did not do it in the team competition (two release moves) because I had no idea where we stood and thought it better to play it safe.

"But tonight I looked at my coach, Makoto Sakamoto, and I said, 'I'm going to do it, I'm going to go for it.' He smiled and said, 'OK, let's go.' I knew that I was going to do it.

On rings I did not do a double-twisting, double-back dismount, as I did in team competition. I did a half in, half out because that's what everybody else was doing and it didn't seem like it was worth it to risk the more difficult move. The judges were not giving credit for doing that extra twist, so I decided not to do it.

"Similarly, in vault, it seemed to me that the judges were deducting only for your landing. They didn't care what vault you did so much as they cared how you landed it. So I didn't do a piked barani—a piked front with a half twist. I did a tuck because I thought it was easier for me to land," said Vidmar.

All Around gold medalist Koji Gushiken of Japan

Men s All Around Final Results
Pauley Pavilion
Aug. 2, 1984

Rank	Ath.	Name	Ctry	Floor	S Hor	Rings	Vault	Par B	Hor B	Final	Prelim	Total
1	47	Gushiken, Koji	Jpn	9.90	9.90	9.95	10.00	9.90	9.95	59.60	58.100	118.700
2	**81**	**Vidmar, Peter**	**USA**	**9.80**	**9.90**	**9.90**	**9.90**	**9.90**	**10.00**	**59.40**	**59.275**	**118.675**
3	11	Li, Ning	Chn	9.90	9.95	9.90	9.90	9.80	9.90	59.35	59.225	118.575
4	15	Tong, Fei	Chn	9.90	9.90	9.90	9.90	9.75	10.00	59.35	59.200	118.550
5	**77**	**Gaylord, Mitch**	**USA**	**9.85**	**9.90**	**9.95**	**9.90**	**9.90**	**9.95**	**59.45**	**59.075**	**118.525**
6	**75**	**Conner, Bart**	**USA**	9.85	9.90	9.90	9.80	**9.85**	**9.90**	**59.29**	**59.150**	**118.350**
7	16	Xu, Zhiqiang	Chn	9.90	9.90	9.90	9.50	9.90	9.65	59.15	59.075	118.225
8	49	Kajitani, Nobuyuki	Jpn	9.75	9.90	9.90	9.90	9.90	9.55	58.90	58.475	117.375
9	48	Hirata, Nontoshi	Jpn	9.85	9.70	9.90	9.90	9.65	9.90	58.80	58.400	117.200
10	28	Geiger, Jurgen	Frg	9.70	9.60	9.90	9.90	9.45	9.75	58.30	58.375	116.675
11	73	Zellweger, Josef	Sui	9.70	9.80	9.80	9.70	9.55	9.80	58.35	58.200	116.550
12	68	Lehmann, Markus	Sui	9.70	9.75	9.60	9.65	9.55	9.80	58.05	58.150	116.200
13	55	Cheng, Tae-Eun	Kor	9.85	9.55	9.60	9.85	9.75	9.70	58.50	57.650	116.150
14	63	Nicula, Emilian	Rom	9.50	9.65	9.90	9.75	9.55	9.85	58.20	57.625	116.025
15	64	Pintea, Valentin	Rom	9.90	9.80	9.35	9.70	9.40	9.80	57.95	58.050	116.000
15	23	Cairon, Jean-Luc	Fre	9.80	9.80	9.90	9.60	9.40	9.25	57.95	58.050	116.000
17	30	Japtok, Andreas	Frg	9.60	9.70	9.80	9.70	9.55	9.40	57.75	58.100	115.850
18	4	Chartrand, Phillippe	Can	9.45	9.50	9.90	9.80	9.20	9.95	57.80	57.875	115.675
19	7	Long, Warren	Can	9.60	9.60	9.60	9.75	9.45	9.70	58.10	57.525	115.625
20	26	Suty, Joel	Fra	9.65	9.00	9.70	9.75	9.80	9.25	57.75	57.750	115.500
21	34	Winkler, Daniel	Frg	9.90	9.65	9.75	9.80	9.65	9.30	57.05	58.200	115.250
22	27	Veluone, Philippe	Fre	9.85	9.10	9.00	9.70	9.05	9.80	57.30	57.725	115.025
23	51	Pineda, Antonio	Mex	9.70	9.85	9.50	9.70	9.50	9.45	57.70	57.250	114.950
24	39	Morris, Andrew	GBr	9.65	9.60	9.80	9.70	9.60	9.35	57.70	57.200	114.900
25	20	Soler, Miguel	Esp	9.60	9.65	9.80	9.75	9.15	9.70	57.65	57.200	114.850
26	44	Allievi, Vittorio	Ita	9.75	9.70	9.55	9.90	9.45	9.50	57.85	56.975	114.825
27	59	Hen, Chung-Sik	Kor	9.45	9.85	9.80	9.85	9.65	9.55	57.15	57.525	114.675
28	72	Wunderlin, Daniel	Sui	9.00	9.75	9.00	9.75	9.60	9.80	58.50	56.050	114.550
29	58	Lee, Jeoung Sik	Kor	9.75	9.65	9.75	9.70	9.30	9.05	57.20	57.350	114.550
30	45	Amboni, Rocco	Ita	9.60	9.65	9.75	9.75	9.20	9.70	57.65	56.700	114.350
31	1	Birnbaum, Werner	Aus	9.75	9.00	9.70	9.70	9.10	9.55	56.00	57.300	114.100
32	46	Lazzarich, Diego	Ita	9.80	9.60	9.70	9.80	9.25	9.55	56.90	56.900	113.800
33	6	Gaudet, Daniel	Can	9.70	9.65	9.90	9.55	9.30	9.15	56.25	57.300	113.550
34	38	Langley, Keith	GBr	9.75	9.25	9.70	9.30	9.55	9.75	56.30	57.050	113.350
35	18	Fraguas, Antonio	Esp	9.70	9.50	9.60	9.70	9.20	9.40	56.70	56.625	113.325
36	35	Bartlett, Terence	GBr	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.55	9.35	0.00	18.90	57.475	76.375

Men s Team Final Results
Pauley Pavilion
July 31, 1984

Rank	Cntry	Floor	S Hor	Rings	Vault	Par B	Hor B	Compul	Option	Total
1	**USA**	**49.19**	**49.45**	**48.80**	**48.30**	**49.35**	**49.20**	**285.39**		
		48.95	**49.10**	**49.50**	**49.35**	**49.80**	**49.80**		**296.10**	**591.40**
2	Chn	49.00	49.20	48.35	49.40	48.80	49.50	294.25		
		49.80	48.70	49.75	49.30	49.55	49.65		296.55	590.80
3	Jpn	48.45	47.95	48.85	49.10	48.60	49.45	292.40		
		49.40	48.10	49.15	49.15	49.40	49.10		294.30	586.70
4	Frg	48.15	47.90	47.85	49.20	48.75	48.45	290.30		
		48.55	48.40	48.90	48.50	48.60	48.65		291.60	582.10
5	Sui	48.10	47.90	47.95	49.10	47.90	49.00	289.95		
		48.15	47.80	48.65	48.60	47.55	49.25		290.00	579.95
6	Fra	47.95	47.95	47.00	48.90	47.35	48.00	297.65		
		48.40	47.55	48.45	48.85	48.55	49.00		290.60	578.25
7	Can	47.60	47.75	47.75	48.90	48.10	48.75	288.85		
		48.30	47.00	48.90	48.60	47.30	48.20		288.30	577.15
8	Kor	47.85	46.70	48.80	48.60	48.35	48.85	287.15		
		47.35	47.75	48.40	48.15	47.30	49.85		287.80	574.95
9	GBr	47.75	48.55	47.70	49.05	48.90	48.35	286.30		
		46.85	48.80	48.60	48.35	48.35	47.95		284.70	571.00

Olympic Pommel Horse Final Results
Pauley Pavilion
Aug. 4, 1984

Rank	Ath.	Name	Ctry	Compul.	Option	Prelim	Final	Total
1	11	Li, Ning	Chn	10.00	9.90	9.950	10.00	19.950
1	**81**	**Vidmar, Peter**	**USA**	**10.00**	**9.90**	**9.950**	**10.00**	**19.950**
3	**78**	**Daggett, Tim**	**USA**	**9.85**	**9.90**	**9.925**	**9.90**	**19.825**
4	15	Tong, Fei	Chn	9.85	9.85	9.850	9.90	19.750
5	23	Cairon, Jean-Luc	Fra	9.75	9.65	9.800	9.90	19.700
6	49	Kajitani, Nobuyuki	Jpn	9.80	9.85	9.725	9.90	19.625
7	29	Gross, Benno	Frg	9.75	9.60	9.775	9.75	19.525
8	73	Zellweger, Josef	Sui	9.70	9.60	9.750	9.75	19.500

Olympic Vault Final Results
Pauley Pavilion
Aug. 4, 1984

Rank	Ath	Name	Ctry	Compul	Option	Prelim	Final	Total
1	14	Lou, Yun	Chn	10.00	10.00	10.000	9.950	19.950
2	11	Li, Ning	Chn	10.00	9.75	9.875	9.950	19.825
2	47	Gushiken, Koji	Jpn	9.85	9.90	9.875	9.950	19.825
2	**77**	**Gaylord, Mitch**	**USA**	**9.95**	**9.90**	**9.925**	**9.900**	**19.825**
2	50	Morisue, Shinji	Jpn	9.95	9.75	9.850	9.975	19.825
6	**79**	**Hartung, James**	**USA**	**9.90**	**9.90**	**9.900**	**9.900**	**19.800**
7	7	Long, Warren	Can	9.85	9.85	9.850	9.850	19.700
8	72	Wunderlin, Daniel	Sui	9.90	9.80	9.850	9.775	19.625

Olympic Floor Exercise Final Results
Pauley Pavilion
Aug. 4, 1984

Rank	Ath	Name	Ctry	Compul	Option	Prelim	Final	Total
1	11	Li, Ning	Chn	9.90	9.95	9.925	10.00	19.925
2	14	Lou, Yun	Chn	9.95	9.90	9.925	9.85	19.775
3	52	Solomura, Koji	Jpn	9.80	9.90	9.850	9.85	19.700
3	27	Veluone, Philippe	Fra	9.80	9.90	9.850	9.85	19.700
5	**75**	**Conner, Bart**	**USA**	**9.95**	**9.90**	**9.925**	**9.75**	**19.675**
6	64	Pintea, Valentin	Rom	9.80	9.90	9.800	9.80	19.600
7	**81**	**Vidmar, Peter**	**USA**	**9.80**	**9.80**	**9.800**	**9.75**	**19.550**
8	47	Gushiken, Koji	Jpn	9.80	9.90	9.850	9.60	19.450

Olympic Parallel Bars Final Results
Pauley Pavilion
Aug. 4, 1984

Rank	Ath	Name	Ctry	Compul	Option	Prelim	Final	Total
1	**75**	**Conner, Bart**	**USA**	**9.90**	**10.00**	**9.950**	**10.00**	**19.959**
2	49	Kajitani, Nobuyuki	Jpn	9.95	9.90	9.925	10.00	19.925
3	**77**	**Gaylord, Mitch**	**USA**	**10.00**	**9.99**	**9.950**	**9.90**	**19.859**
4	15	Tong, Fei	Chn	9.85	9.90	9.875	9.95	19.825
5	47	Gushiken, Koji	Jpn	9.90	9.90	9.900	9.90	19.800
6	11	Li, Ning	Chn	9.85	9.90	9.875	9.90	19.775
7	34	Winkler, Daniel	Frg	9.75	9.85	9.800	9.80	19.800
7	28	Geiger, Jurgen	Frg	9.80	9.80	9.800	9.80	19.600

Olympic Rings Final Results
Pauley Pavilion
Aug. 4, 1984

Rank	Ath	Name	Ctry	Compul	Option	Prelim	Final	Total
1	47	Gushiken, Koji	Jpn	9.90	9.90	9.900	9.95	19.850
1	11	Li, Ning	Chn	9.80	10.00	9.900	9.95	19.850
3	**77**	**Gaylord, Mitch**	**USA**	**9.85**	**10.00**	**9.925**	**9.90**	**19.825**
4	15	Tong, Fei	Chn	9.70	10.00	9.850	9.90	19.750
4	**81**	**Vidmar, Peter**	**USA**	**9.80**	**9.90**	**9.850**	**9.90**	**19.750**
6	53	Tamawaki, Kyoji	Jpn	9.75	9.90	9.825	9.90	19.725
7	63	Nicula, Emilian	Rom	9.70	9.90	9.800	9.70	19.500
8	73	Zellweger, Josef	Sui	9.75	9.90	9.775	9.60	19.375

Olympic Horizontal Bar Final Results
Pauley Pavilion
Aug. 4, 1984

Rank	Ath	Name	Ctry	Compul	Option	Prelim.	Final	Total
1	50	Morisue, Shinji	Jpn	10.00	10.00	10.000	10.00	20.000
2	15	Tong, Fei	Chn	10.00	9.95	9.975	10.00	19.975
3	47	Gushiken, Koji	Jpn	10.00	9.90	9.950	10.00	19.950
4	14	Lou, Yun	Chn	9.95	9.95	9.950	9.90	19.850
4	**81**	**Vidmar, Peter**	**USA**	**9.95**	**9.95**	**9.950**	**9.90**	**19.850**
7	**78**	**Daggett, Tim**	**USA**	**9.90**	**10.00**	**9.950**	**9.90**	**19.850**
7	70	Piatti, Marco	Sui	9.90	9.90	9.900	9.90	19.800
9	72	Wunderlin, Daniel	Sui	9.95	9.90	9.875	9.80	19.675

Li Ning of China (left) performs a cross with no visible signs of effort (Above) Romania invades Pauley Pavilion with their sights set on the team gold. (USGF photos © 1984 by Dave Black for Fuji Film, Inc.)

Women's Compulsories

Women's compulsories must be judged in retrospect looking at them from the perspective of having seen the Romanians compete, too. At the time the Americans finished, there was chagrin on the faces of the gymnasts because of what they thought were low scores and anger in the voices of the coaches because of the judging. However, as it turned out, the United States women's team finished compulsories only 0.45 behind the Romanians. Agache and Szabo were tied for first place but Retton, Julianne McNamara and Kathy Johnson were close behind in 3rd, 4th and 5th positions. The American women had absolutely nothing to be ashamed of.

Szabo was the only gymnast to get a 10.0 in compulsories, she got it in floor exercise. In the Americans' floor exercise, the scoring progression had gone steadily upward: 9.6, 9.7, 9.7, 9.8, 9.9 and 9.95. Mary Lou's 9.95 could well have been a 10.0.

Concerning her floor routine she said, "I think it was the best floor routine I ever did. I reacted with the crowd and I played to the crowd and they reacted. I felt great out there."

"Did you expect to get a 10.0?"

"In a way, yeah, I did. I was up last and I think I deserved one."

The Chinese women's coach substantiated this view when she commented, "It is my own opinion that there were several gymnasts who performed the same routine almost as perfectly as the Romanian girls did, but only one 10.0 was given. I think Mary Lou Retton should have been given a 10.0, but she did not get it."

Mary Lou got a 9.9 for her vault and again said it should have been a 10.0. "It was a good vault," she said. "It was high and long. Again it was the judging."

Michelle Dusserre had a very steady performance during the Games. (USGF photo © 1984 by Dave Black for Fuji Film, Inc.)

McNamara reacted in a similar way to her 9.9 on bars. There was a long delay in the posting of her score. "I knew there was something funny going on," she said, "but when the scores came up, I had two 10.0's and two 9.8's, so I got a 9.9. I think I should have gotten a 10.0. I did the best bar routine I've ever done and I think the judging was a little low."

Coach Don Peters said, "I think the girls performed very well today, all of them, particularly well on the balance beam."

Michelle Dusserre, youngest member of the team, said, "I think I did the best bars and the best floor I've ever done in my life. I was a little shaky at being up first but I thought I did a really good job."

Pam Bileck, the next youngest gymnast, who was suffering from a stress fracture in her ankle, did what Peters said was "a phenomenal floor routine," and got a 9.7. Of her ankle Bileck said, "in competition you don't feel it."

It was Tracee Talavera's beam routine that had caused all the discussion about the scoring by the Romanian judge. In answer to a question about it, Talavera said, "I felt I had a really good beam routine. I had a little wobble on my front walkover, but that was it. I felt I was underscored quite a bit. That was partly because of my line up. I was second up and that didn't help at all. I felt good about my whole competition. It was the best compulsory competition I've had all year."

Women's Optionals

It was a heart throbbing, pulsing moment as the United States women walked out in their spectacular stars and stripes leotards into applause and cheering unprecedented in this writer's experience. The Romanians, who had been given a similar greeting two days earlier, received only a modest ovation. It was obvious everyone was waiting for this big moment.

During the evening, the Chinese might almost not have been there. Everyone's attention was focused on the American-Romanian duel. In the end, the Romanians increased their 0.45 lead to 1.15 and won the team competition.

Although the American women scored two tenths higher in their optionals score than in compulsories, Peters said, "I don't think we performed at our best tonight. Overall as a team, we have performed more consistently in the past. From what I saw out there tonight, it did not seem to be a night for perfect performances. All three teams had errors as the competition went on. That sometimes happens in a very close meet where there's a lot of pressure. Going in 0.45 behind the Romanians was very close. We were feeling the pressure, I think they were feeling it. Consequently, there were little mental errors that were made on both sides.

"The Romanians won. From what I could see, they deserved to win. They're the gold medal team, I salute them. As for our silver medal, this was a first for us—to win the team medal in the Olympic Games or in any World Championships. It's also the first time we've ever beaten the Chinese in world team competition and we're very happy about that.

"We're very proud that an American gymnast (Mary Lou) is in first place in the all around competition. McNamara is tied for 3rd, Johnson is in sixth. So we're in good shape for the all around finals," Peters said.

The undoing of the American team came on balance beam, two falls and one major break resulted in a 47.55 score as a team compared to the Romanian's 49.30. After the beam event, 2nd rotation, the U.S. was down 1.75 altogether to the Romanians. There was not much chance of overcoming such a disadvantage. However, the U.S. made up 0.10 on floor and a big 0.50 on vault to end up 1.15 points behind the Romanians.

Johnson summed it up when she said, "the silver medal is very special. When we started talking about this months and months ago, that was our dream, silver medal, definitely a medal—gold, silver or bronze. So in the next few days, it's going to mean even more for us to have won the team silver medal in the Olympic Games.

"There were some real highlights for us in the performances. There were 10s, and the vault Mary Lou has been wanting to stick for so long, that she's been training so hard for. It was almost as exciting for me as it was for her. Tracee's vault. You know, we had good things on every single event. This is a super bunch of girls and I couldn't be happier with my performance."

Julianne McNamara won a gold medal for her stellar performance on the uneven parallel bars. Tying her for a gold was China's Ma Yanhong. (USGF photo © 1984 Dave Black).

Bart Conner the old man of the USA men's team fulfilled his gymnastics dream by taking the gold in the parallel bars. On his final routine Conner received a perfect score. (USGF photo 1984 Dave Black).

After compulsories, Retton trailed Agache and Szabo by 5 hundredths of a point 39 50 to 39 55 During optionals, Mary Lou maintained her consistency of performance and scored 39 55 However, Szabo dropped back to 39 20 having had two breaks in her bars routine and a fall on landing, resulting in a 9 30 on that event. The swing of 0 35 in Mary Lou's favor gave her a lead aher team competition of 0 30, which would be averaged to 0 15 going into the all around

In the all around competition, the attention of the spectators was concentrated on the real battle in hand, and a very exciting one it was, too, since Mary Lou started out in front, dropped back to even, then behind then slightly ahead and then decidedly ahead

Mary Lou lost her 0 15 lead going in when she scored 9 85 on bars and Szabo scored 10 0 on beam She lost another 0 15 with her 9 8 on beam to Szabo's 9 95 on floor. By now, there had been a swing of 0 30 and Mary Lou was 0 15 behind. However, her strongest events were floor and vault They were ahead of her and she was determined to get 10 00 on each

Szabo performed first and got 9 90 on vault This score opened the door slightly for Mary Lou and she took full advantage of the opportunity. She thrilled the crowd with her layout double back somersault opening pass, her full in back out second pass and her third double back somersault, a double tuck In between, there was her very fitting dance routine, choreographed for her by Bela Karolyi's former associate, Geza Poszar, who had choreographed Nadia's routines Her routine was not perfect but was definitely superior to other floor routines that had scored 9 9 or 9 95, so she received a 10 0 This gain of 0 1 moved her up to within 0 05 of Szabo

Again Szabo was first up and scored 9 90 on her bars routine, having suffered a 0 10 deduction for stepping back on her dismount Her final score was 79 125 After three rotations, Mary Lou stood at 69 175 A 9 95 on her final event would tie Szabo, a

(Continued on page 28)

The women's team swamps Julianne McNamara (above) after she received a 10 0 for her uneven parallel bars routine (left) Kathy Johnson came through with a bronze medal in the balance beam competition (USGF photos © 1984 by Dave Black for FUJI Film)

1984 Olympic Results

Women's All Around Final Results
Pauley Pavilion
Aug. 3, 1984

Rank	No	Name	Ctry	Vault	Un. B	Beam	Floor	Final	Prelim	Total
Athlete 43 injured, unable to continue										
1	**105**	**Retton, Mary Lou**	**USA**	**10.00**	**9.85**	**9.80**	**10.00**	**39.65**	**39.526**	**79.175**
2	68	Szabo, Ecaterina	Rom	9.90	9.90	10.00	9.95	39.75	39.375	79.125
3	84	Pauca, Simona	Rom	9.90	9.90	9.95	9.90	39.65	39.025	78.675
4	**104**	**McNamara, Julianne**	**USA**	**9.65**	**10.00**	**9.55**	**9.70**	**39.20**	**39.200**	**78.400**
5	81	Cutina, Laura	Rom	9.90	9.90	9.40	9.90	39.10	39.200	78.300
6	20	Ma, Yanhong	Chn	9.65	10.00	9.80	9.30	38.75	39.100	77.850
7	24	Zhou, Ping	Chn	9.75	9.80	9.80	9.75	39.10	38.675	77.775
8	17	Chen, Yongyan	Chn	9.70	9.80	9.85	9.70	39.05	38.675	77.725
9	92	Kessler, Romi	Sui	9.65	9.85	9.80	9.55	38.85	38.675	77.525
10	**103**	**Johnson, Kathy**	**USA**	**9.85**	**9.90**	**9.40**	**9.25**	**38.40**	**39.050**	**77.450**
11	68	Mono, Maiko	Jpn	9.80	9.80	9.55	9.75	38.90	37.950	76.850
12	49	Wilhelm, Anja	Frg	9.75	9.70	9.70	9.05	38.20	38.225	76.425
13	15	Wittmeier, Bonnie	Can	9.60	9.65	9.60	9.60	38.45	37.925	76.375
14	13	Thomas, Andrea	Can	9.55	9.75	9.35	9.65	38.30	37.925	76.225
14	36	Munoz, Laura	Esp	9.60	9.35	9.80	9.40	38.35	37.675	76.225
16	67	Mochizuki, Noriko	Jpn	9.75	9.85	9.20	9.45	38.25	37.850	76.100
17	8	Bohnen, Anita	Can	9.65	9.75	9.45	9.40	38.25	37.775	76.025
18	69	Oyagi, Chihiro	Jpn	9.45	9.85	9.50	9.60	38.40	37.425	75.825
19	50	Davies, Natalie	GBr	9.75	9.40	9.50	9.60	38.25	37.525	75.775
20	62	Bortolaso, Laura	Ita	9.60	9.75	9.60	9.35	38.30	37.375	75.675
21	34	Manso, Ana Olivido	Esp	9.80	9.70	9.40	9.15	38.05	36.225	75.275
22	51	Harrison, Amanda	GBr	9.75	9.50	9.25	9.45	37.95	37.275	75.225
23	41	Beckers, Astrid	Frg	9.60	9.50	9.00	9.40	37.50	37.625	75.125
24	64	Latanzio, Susi	Sui	9.60	9.45	9.25	9.50	37.80	37.200	75.000
25	57	Williams, Kathleen	GBr	9.65	9.65	9.05	9.35	37.70	37.225	74.925
26	26	Artigas, Marta	Esp	9.70	9.65	9.35	9.25	37.55	36.900	74.450
27	7	Figueiredo, Tatiana	Bra	9.60	9.65	9.40	9.45	38.10	36.300	74.400
28	39	Laborderie, Florence	Fra	9.60	9.15	9.60	9.25	37.60	36.575	74.175
29	96	Seiler, Natalie	Sui	9.70	9.40	9.40	9.40	36.90	37.075	73.975
30	74	Lee, Jung-Hee	Kor	9.65	9.95	9.15	9.60	37.35	36.400	73.750
31	60	Goldsmith, Nancy	Isr	9.20	9.65	9.40	9.45	37.70	36.025	73.725
32	40	Ragazzacci, Corinne	Fra	9.50	9.60	8.55	9.30	37.45	35.800	73.250
33	1	Battersby, Ken	Aus	9.30	9.55	8.55	9.10	36.50	36.150	72.650
34	4	Wilson, Kellie	Aus	9.25	9.45	8.15	9.40	36.25	36.100	72.350
35	96	Adomat, Lena	Swe	9.55	9.15	7.30	9.40	35.40	35.925	71.325
36	43	Heine, Elke	Frg	9.75	9.70	0.00	0.00	19.45	38.275	57.725

Women's Team Final Results
Pauley Pavilion
Aug. 1, 1984

RANK	CNTRY	VAULT	UN.B	BEAM	FLOOR	COMPUL	OPTION	TOTAL
1	ROM	49.20	48.90	48.75	49.30	196.15		
		49.40	48.70	49.30	46.65		196.05	392.20
2	**USA**	**49.15**	**48.60**	**48.60**	**49.05**	**195.70**		
		49.15	**49.25**	**47.70**	**49.80**		**195.50**	**391.20**
3	CHN	48.90	47.85	48.25	49.15	94.15		
		48.55	49.00	48.65	48.25		194.45	388.60
4	FRG	48.00	47.40	46.40	48.05	189.85		
		48.10	47.10	47.45	46.65		189.30	379.15
5	CAN	48.35	45.90	47.10	47.30	188.65		
		47.60	47.60	46.90	48.15		190.25	378.90
6	JPN	48.60	44.10	46.45	48.45	187.60		
		46.95	48.15	46.65	47.40		189.15	376.75
7	GBR	47.50	45.45	45.40	47.55	185.90		
		46.00	46.45	45.75	47.75		187.95	373.85
8	SUI	48.05	45.10	46.00	47.00	186.15		
		47.10	47.35	45.35	47.55		187.35	373.50
9	ESP	47.35	44.95	45.30	47.60	185.40		
		47.40	46.15	47.00	46.15		186.79	372.10

Women's Olympic Vault Final Results
Pauley Pavilion
Aug. 5, 1984

Rank	Ath	Name	Ctry	Compul	Option	Prelim	Finale	Total
1	68	Szabo, Ecaterina	Rom	9.90	10.00	9.950	9.925	19.875
2	**105**	**Retton, Mary Lou**	**USA**	**9.90**	**10.00**	**9.950**	**9.900**	**19.850**
3	60	Agache, Lavinia	Rom	9.90	9.90	9.900	9.850	19.750
4	**107**	**Talavera, Tracee**	**USA**	**9.80**	**9.80**	**9.850**	**9.850**	**19.700**
5	24	Zhou, Ping	Chn	9.90	9.75	9.825	9.675	19.500
6	44	Lehmann, Brigitta	Frg	9.70	9.60	9.750	9.675	19.425
8	9	Brown, Kelly	Can	9.80	9.60	9.700	9.725	19.425
8	17	Chen, Yongyan	Chn	9.90	9.75	9.825	9.475	19.300

Women's Olympic Balance Beam Final Results
Pauley Pavilion
Aug. 6, 1984

Rank	Ath	Name	Ctry	Compul	Option	Prelim.	Final	Total
1	64	Pauca, Simona	Rom	9.80	10.00	9.900	9.90	19.800
1	66	Szabo, Ecaterina	Rom	9.75	9.95	9.850	9.95	19.800
3	**103**	**Johnson, Kathy**	**USA**	**9.85**	**9.75**	**9.800**	**9.85**	**19.650**
4	**105**	**Retton, Mary Lou**	**USA**	**9.65**	**9.75**	**9.800**	**9.75**	**19.550**
5	20	Ma, Yanhong	Chn	9.70	9.80	9.750	9.70	19.450
6	92	Kessler, Romi	Sui	9.50	9.70	9.600	9.75	19.350
7	49	Wilhelm, Anja	Frg	9.40	9.70	9.550	9.65	19.200
7	17	Chen, Yongyan	Chn	9.55	9.75	9.650	9.55	19.200

Women's Olympic Uneven Bars Final Results
Pauley Pavilion
Aug. 5, 1984

Rank	Ath	Name	Ctry	Compul	Option	Prelim	Final	Total
1	20	Ma, Yanhong	Chn	9.90	10.00	9.950	10.00	19.950
	104	**McNamara, Julianne**	**USA**	**9.90**	**10.00**	**9.950**	**10.00**	**19.950**
3	**105**	**Retton, Mary Lou**	**USA**	**9.80**	**9.80**	**9.650**	**9.95**	**19.800**
4	67	Stanuiet, Mihaela	Rom	9.70	9.60	9.750	9.90	19.650
5	92	Kessler, Romi	Sui	9.60	9.75	9.675	9.75	19.425
6	24	Zhou, Ping	Chn	9.55	9.65	9.600	9.75	19.350
7	67	Mochizuki, Noriko	Jpn	9.30	9.75	9.525	9.80	19.325
8	80	Agache, Lavinia	Rom	9.85	9.55	9.700	9.45	19.150

Women's Olympic Floor Exercise Final Results
Pauley Pavilion
Aug. 5, 1984

Rank	Ath	Name	Ctry	Compul	Option	Prelim	Final	Total
1	68	Szabo, Ecaterina	Rom	10.00	9.95	9.975	10.00	19.975
2	**104**	**McNamara, Julianne**	**USA**	**9.90**	**10.00**	**9.950**	**10.00**	**19.950**
3	**105**	**Retton, Mary Lou**	**USA**	**9.85**	**9.90**	**9.925**	**9.85**	**19.775**
4	25	Zhou, Qiurui	Chn	9.80	9.75	9.775	9.85	19.625
5	92	Kessler, Romi	Sui	9.65	9.80	9.725	9.85	19.575
6	20	Ma, Yanhong	Chn	9.80	9.70	9.750	9.70	19.450
7	68	Mono, Maiko	Jpn	9.75	9.70	9.725	9.65	19.375
8	81	Cutina, Laura	Rom	9.80	9.90	9.850	9.30	19.150

(From page 26)

10.0 would win her an Olympic gold medal. Fortunately for Mary Lou, this final event was vault—and she was not to be denied.

She put her head down and ran at the vault with all the unrestrained strength she could muster. Her sprinter's legs propelling her faster and faster. She struck the beat board a solid blow with both feet, turned, pushed back off the horse and flew off into her layout back somersault with a full twist. High up and far out she flew and then stuck her landing, nailing her feet into the floor. A winning score of 10.0 being inevitable, the crowd erupted into a deafening, roaring, cheering round of sustained applause and Mary Lou knew she had it made. According to the rules, she had to do a second vault, but the result was the same.

Her 10.0 gave her a 0.05 winning lead over Szabo and, as she said, "I couldn't hold back showing my emotion." Neither could anybody else.

Men's Apparatus Finals

Floor Exercise

Li Ning, China
1. Full in, back out double back somersault
2. Double back pike somersault.
   Flair—spindle
   Press to handstand
3. Side somersault to front scale
4. Double tuck back somersault.

Lou Yun, China
1. Double back layout somersault
2. Running side somersault to round-off, back handspring pike 1-3/4 side somersault to ¼ turn to forward roll.
3. Round-off piked arabian front somersault
4. Double pike back somersault

Sotomura, Koji, Japan
1. Double back layout somersault
2. Double tuck back somersault.
3. Round-off to side somersault
4. Double tuck back somersault.

Vatuone, Philippe, France
1. Double back layout somersault
2. Handspring to layout front somersault
3. Back full
4. Full in, back out double back somersault

Pommels

Li Ning, China

Loop into spindle into back Moor, regular circle, back Moor to immediate back Moor, then breaks into scissors, one back scissor, one front, front scissor with ½ pick up into regular circles, flair to flair moor, flair hop to a flair handstand dismount

Peter Vidmar, USA

Both hands on pommels, jump to back Moor, to reverse loop, spindle to back Moor to immediate pommel circle into regular circle, back Moor, ½ circle, back Moor, immediate travel, flair handstand into scissors, two back scissors, two front scissors, pick up to regular circles, ½ back Moor to back Magyar travel, flair handstand dismount

Tim Daggett, USA

Jump to two pommel circles, walk across pommel to one back Moor to an immediate back Moor, break into scissors, one front scissor, one front scissor with ½ twist, into back scissor, pick up to regular circle, to back Moor, immediate Russian Stockli into flair across horse sideways into flair back into center, flair Stockli handstand dismount.

Rings

Gushikan, Koji, Japan

Kip to plancha, lower to cross, kip to a momentary planche, bail giant swing to handstand, 2 reverse giants to handstand, reverse bail to Honma, front roll press to handstand, double twisting double-back somersault

Li Ning, China

Hang, dislocate to a German cast, to inlocated front uprise to L support, planche, lower to cross, kip to an L, planche, stiff stiff press to handstand, bail giant handstand, reverse giant, dismount ½-in ½-out.

Mitch Gaylord, USA

Kip to planche, bail handstand to another bail to Hickman roll support to an immediate cross, back kip to L, stiff stiff press to handstand, to a reverse bail to handstand, then finish with tuck ½-in ½-out or triple back somersault

Vault

Lou Yun, China
1. Handspring pike front barani
2. Handspring tuck rudi (1 ½)

Li Ning, China
1. Layout Tsukahara
2. Layout Tsukahara, full twist

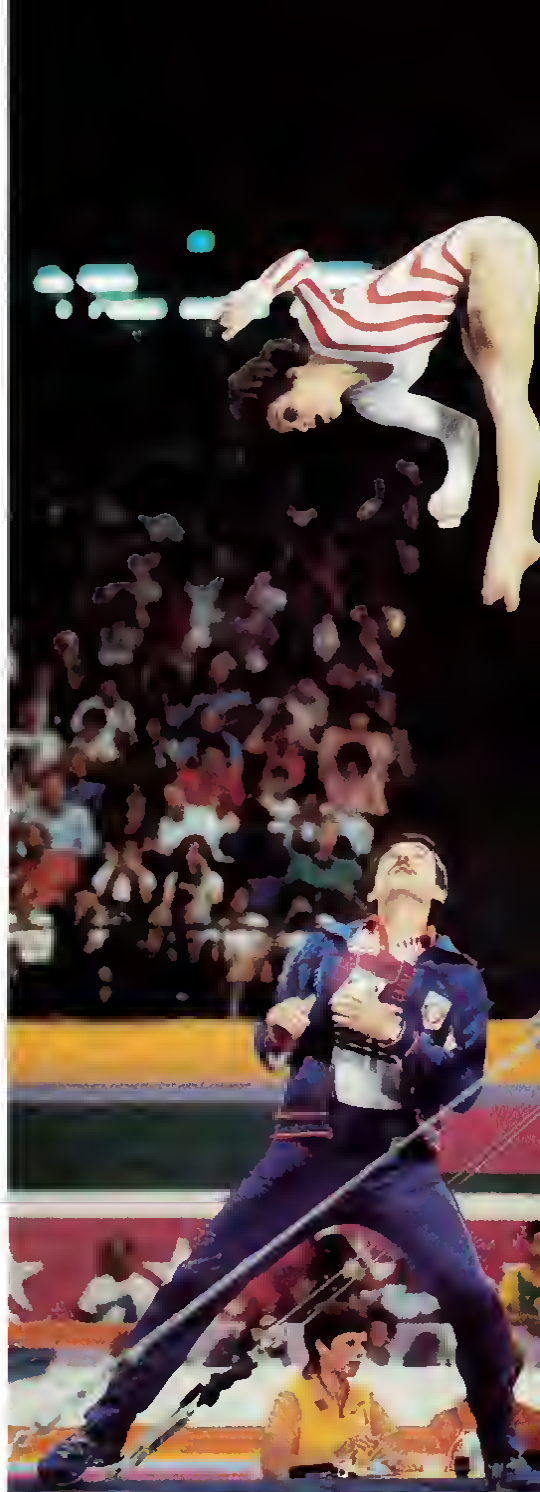
Gushiken, Koji, Japan
1. Handspring tuck front barani
2. Layout Tsukahara

Mitch Gaylord, USA
1. Layout Tsukahara, full twist
2. Handspring pike front barani

Moriaua, Shinji, Japan
1. Handspring tuck front barani
2. Layout Tsukahara.

Shinji Morisue of Japan took the high bar gold with a perfect 10.00 average (USGF photo © 1984 by Dave Black for Fuji Film, Inc.)

Pam Bilyeck (above) Tracee Talavera (below) and Mary Lou Retton all show different moves on the uneven parallel bars. Retton is being spotted by Coach Dan Peters indicating even the best need to be careful. (USGF photos © 1984 by Dave Black for FUJI Film, Inc.)



Lavinia Agache of Romania performs her dismount on the uneven parallel bars. Agache took a bronze in the vault. (USGF photo © 1984 by Dave Black for FUJI Film, Inc.)

Parallel Bars

Bart Conner, USA
Standing sideways, hands over far bar, flange to ¼ turn to handstand, back toss to handstand, back toss to handstand, Stutz to handstand, straddle pirouette 2 times, lower to straddle L on one bar to a 360 degree pivot to a one bar stiff stiff press to handstand, Stutz handstand double luck dismount.

Kajitani, Nobuyuki, Japan
Facing front, jump to glide reverse straddle cut to handstand, giant to handstand, Stutz to handstand, front uprise, swinging front pirouette to a bent-arm Tkachev (reverse straddle cut), cast, straddle cut, dipswing to handstand, giant to double luck somersault off the end.

Mitch Gaylord, USA
Facing sideways, jump ½ turn, stalter press, ¼ turn to handstand, Stutz to handstand, Dramidov handstand, front uprise, Healy turn to upper arm, straddle cut to straddle planche, swing to ½ diamidov, Healy to upper arm, straddle cut L, straddle stiff stiff press, double luck dismount.

Horizontal Bar

Morieue, Shinji, Japan
Lock arm shoot to handstand, pirouette on one arm, two one-arm giants, reverse Hecht (twice), hop change, Markelov kip, pirouette, Czech giant, double layout back somersault dismount.

Tong Fei, China
Endo shoot mount, pirouette on one-arm, two one-arm giants on left arm, one-arm giant on right arm, reverse Hecht, hop, kip, stoop in dislocate, one inverted giant, hop pirouette, two giants, double layout back somersault dismount.

Gushiken, Koji, Japan
Lock arm shoot to handstand, pirouette, stalter, reverse Hecht direct to full-twisting pirouette, kip, dislocate, pirouette, double layout back somersault dismount.

Women's Apparatus Finals

Vault

Ecaterine Szabo, Romania
1. Full twisting pike Tsukahara
2. Cuervo in tuck position.

Mary Lou Retton, USA
1. Handspring front with ½ twist in pike position
2. Full-twisting layout Tsukahara.

Lavinia Agache, Romania
1. 1½ twisting tucked Tsukahara
2. Tucked Tsukahara with ½ twist.

Bars

Ma Yanhong, China
Very good toe point and extension throughout routine which included a giant swing reverse hecht (Tkachev), a wrap around the low bar with a ½ turn hecht to catch the high bar and an excellent free hip circle hecht with full-twist dismount.

Julianne McNamara, USA
Slemrise mount with ½ turn to immediate giant, followed by giant reverse hecht. Julianne has fantastic swing and utilizes skills from different categories better than any of her peers. Her execution is perfect as she moves from one bar to another with beautiful stalders to dismount with a free hip underswing front somersault with ½ twist.

Mary Lou Retton, USA
Very aggressive bar worker but tends to flex her knees during her reverse hecht and during her stomach whip front flip to back support on high bar. Otherwise, her form is good. She has good extension through her feet and her legs are held tightly together. Her dismount, a front somersault in pike position with ½ twist, had tremendous flight and a good landing.

Beam

Simona Peuca, Romania
Front headspring mount
Back handspring, layout, immediate layout.
Back handspring, piked back somersault.
Pirouette—tick lock—½ turn.
Two back handsprings to double-twist dismount.

Good leaps. Rest of work exceptionally clean and well executed but very flat footed. Works with complete control at all times and shows supreme command of her concentration.

Ecaterine Szabo, Romania
Press handstand mount
Straddle planche down
Four back handsprings
High scale
Back handspring, layout.
Round-off double back

Very steady and aggressive performer. Works on flat feet but had tremendous command of all her skills and executes them flawlessly. A very impressive beam worker.

Kathy Johnson, USA
Gainer layout, walkover, layout.
Tick lock, 2 back extension rolls.
Straddle jump
Straddle leap
Round off double twist dismount.

Most balanced beam routine compositionally in that dance elements are as equally difficult as acrobatic skills. Works aggressively with maturity and elegance.

Floor

Ecaterine Szabo, Romania
1. Piked full in, back-out.
2. Round-off, flic flac 2½ twist, round-off flic flac 1½ twist, immediate punch front. (Very exciting and extremely well done.)
3. Tucked full-in, back-out.

Without a doubt, this routine had the highest level of difficulty. Kati manages to couple this difficulty with elegance and beauty in portraying her dance to a medley of American music.

Julianne McNamara, USA
1. Tucked full-in back out
2. Tucked double-back
3. Double twist

An exciting routine to Hungarian Rhapsody #5. She incorporated a display of acrobatics and dance to motivate the crowd. They clapped along with the music and enjoyed her performance.

Mary Lou Retton, USA
1. Double layout back somersault
2. Full-in back-out
3. Double-back somersault, tucked position

A dynamic exercise in which she displays her phenomenal power in tumbling. Mary Lou has the ability to make the crowd feel a part of her performance and they really enjoyed it.

Peter Vidmar,
Mary Lou Retton

Lori Fung, of Canada, stole the show and the majority of the hearts in the crowd by winning the gold medal. (USGF photo © 1984 by Dave Black for FUJI Film, Inc.)

OH CANADA

Lori Fung Sets Standards for Rhythmic Olympic Initiation

By Minot Simons II

It was one of the most heartwarming events of the Olympics. Lori Fung of Canada upset the Romanians to win the gold medal. She had already begun to steal the hearts of an enthusiastic audience by her beautiful performances and her winning smile.

In the end, the gold medal was hers because she mastered the drafts and air currents set up by the powerful air conditioning system of Pauley Pavilion which was operating at full blast in the summer heat to keep nearly 9,000 spectators comfortable.

Alina Dragan and Doina Staiculescu of Romania had had their ribbons tangled or would around their bodies. The air currents had blown the light ribbons around and prevented gymnasts from having control of the ribbon at all times. However, while other girls faltered on this event, Lori Fung prevailed. Her ribbon routine sparkled with verve and daring; it was excitingly choreographed and was performed without a single mistake. When she finished, the crowd burst into applause and called her back to take a bow. It was then we realized she was stealing the show from the Romanians.

She had started finals tied for third place with Regina Weber of West Germany and Marta Canton of Spain. As expected, the Romanians were in the lead, but not by much. Lori Fung was at 18.90, while Dragan was 19.025 and Staiculescu was at 19.25.

After two events, Lori had moved ahead of Regina Weber and had third place all to herself, only 0.025 and 0.40 behind the Romanians.

The third rotation was especially exciting, and for two reasons. First, Alina Dragan had trouble with her ribbon but Lori Fung did not. Dragan dropped out of the running with her 9.25 but Lori Fung stayed right up there with her 9.80. The second reason third rotation was exciting was that it contained the single most outstanding event of the evening: Staiculescu's

Final Results
Rhythmic Gymnastics Competition
Aug. 11, 1984

Rank	Ath	Name	City	Hoop	Ball	Clubs	Ribbon	Results	Prelim	Total
1	11	Fung, Lori	Can	9.70	9.75	9.80	9.80	39.05	18.900	57.950
2	86	Staiculescu, Dolan	Rom	9.70	9.90	9.80	9.25	38.65	19.250	57.900
3	47	Weber, Regina	Frg	9.75	9.70	9.70	9.75	38.90	18.800	57.700
4	82	Dragan, Alina	Rom	9.65	9.75	9.70	9.25	38.35	19.025	57.375
5	109	Reljin, Milena	Yug	9.45	9.65	9.55	9.70	38.35	18.900	57.250
6	30	Canton, Marta	Esp	9.55	9.40	9.55	9.55	38.05	18.900	56.950
7	64	Stasciol, Giulia	Ita	9.65	9.60	9.40	9.25	37.90	18.875	56.775
8	72	Yamasaki, Hiroko	Jpn	9.55	9.70	9.40	9.30	37.95	18.725	56.675
9	29	Bobo, Marta	ESP	9.00	9.70	9.75	9.15	37.60	18.775	56.375
10	110	Simic, Daniela	Yug	9.50	9.40	9.30	9.40	37.60	18.725	56.325
11	**108**	**Zimring, Valerie**	**USA**	**9.55**	**9.45**	**9.50**	**9.30**	**37.80**	**18.450**	**56.250**
11	45	Scharmann, Claudia	Frg	9.50	9.40	9.50	9.25	37.65	18.600	56.250
13	65	Akyama, Enka	Jap	9.45	9.35	9.40	9.50	37.70	18.350	56.050
14	**100**	**Berube, Michelle**	**USA**	**9.35**	**9.55**	**9.40**	**9.40**	**37.70**	**18.100**	**55.800**
15	63	Cimino, Cristina	Ita	9.35	9.35	9.40	9.30	37.40	18.175	55.575
16	97	Verzasloni, Grazia	Sui	9.30	9.25	9.10	9.25	36.90	18.200	55.100
17	10	Dunnett, Adrianne	Can	9.30	9.30	9.20	8.90	36.60	18.100	54.700
18	78	Carmo, Marganda	Por	9.15	9.15	9.15	9.00	36.45	18.125	54.575
19	99	Bengtsson, Viktoria	Swe	9.95	9.00	9.15	9.35	36.45	18.025	54.475
20	76	Zomassateiny, Schinn	Nor	8.35	9.25	9.40	8.65	36.25	18.050	54.300

clubs routine It was full of super-complicated elements and was performed with flawless execution The crowd gasped as she threw and caught her clubs without the slightest hesitation even as she caught them behind her back or in the midst of some semi acrobatic maneuver Her body flexibility was incredible and her mastery of this difficult and uncompromising event was complete If she had continued to perform this way, the gold medal would easily have been hers

However in fourth rotation, she too had trouble controlling the ribbon got tangled up in it two or three times and received 9 25 Considering Staiculescu's final score and Lori Fung s after three rotations, Lori needed only 9 65 to tie her and 9 70 to win Having already finished the treacherous ribbon routine Lori had only her hoop routine left—not a difficult challenge for one so gifted She performed it without any errors and scored 9 70 Suddenly she was the winner

What a lovely winner she was, this Canadian girl of Chinese extraction from Vancouver She had a broad smile and an open naturalness that was irresistible The crowd loved her

Of course, the American audience also loved the American entries Valerie Zimring and Michelle Berube This first-ever Olympic competition in rhythmic gymnastics was especially important for the United States, as the country needed television exposure to boost the sport The United States was fortunate, therefore, in having two such attractive and talented gymnasts for this event

At the conclusion of preliminaries Zimring and Berube stood 12th and 17th respectively out of 33 competitors After finals they stood 11th and 14th out of 20 competitors Both gymnasts scored between 9 30 and 9 55 in finals but had lower scores in preliminaries

On the first day, Zimring started competition with a 9 25 for ball but went on to a 9 50 for a super routine with clubs It is an unbelievably lively routine to the music of "Ain t she sweet" and it really roused the crowd. Zimring said later "I was pleased with my club routine I made all my difficult parts"

Berube had to start with ribbon a difficult start because of the air conditioning, but she caught all of her difficult moves had one small error and scored 9.25 However in her second event she missed a hoop catch and in spite of an otherwise beautiful routine had to settle for a 9 0

On the second day Zimring scored 9 30 for a beautiful ribbon routine with appealing choreography She missed catching the ribbon handle once However, she had difficulty with her hoop routine and had problems that are uncharacteristic of her, since it is her best event. She went off the mat three times and received 8 85

Berube's first event of the second day was ball She dropped the ball once but otherwise had a very crowd-appealing routine Her 9 10 seemed like a very low score In clubs she dropped the apparatus three times and scored 8 85

These problems of the first two days were caused undoubtedly by the excessively high pressure on them—two American girls the only two performing before an American crowd of 9 000 and in an International competition There was pressure also from the great success of the artistic gymnasts People were expecting them to do the same However, the preliminary competition days helped to ease this pressure Both American gymnasts made finals and both did well there Zimring had scores of 9 55 9.45, 9 50 and 9 30 while Berube had 9 35, 9 55 9 40 and 9 40

The two American rhythmic gymnasts thus gave a good account of themselves in this first Olympic competition They were the pioneers, they showed there is a place in gymnastics for those who do not think of themselves as suited for vault, bars, beam or acrobatic tumbling

That rhythmic gymnastics is a beautiful sport was demonstrated by a group finale to each evening performed by gymnasts from the Los Angeles School of Gymnastics The group routine was excitingly choreographed by Olympic Coach Alla Svirsky and included two solos by Marina Kunyavsky one with clubs and one with two ribbons, a ribbon solo by Elizabeth Cull and a hoop solo by Sung Hee Hong

Now that America has moved up to the top in artistic gymnastics after many years as also-rans we can look forward to similar progress in this other branch of the sport if it gets the support our rhythmic gymnasts have shown they deserve

The USA's Michelle Berube extends herself during her hoop routine. (Below) Doina Staiculescu of Romania placed second taking the silver medal. (USGF photos © 1984 by Dave Black for Fuji Film, Inc.)

Michelle Berube (top) had some shaky moments during the Olympics but recovered to finish 14th for the USA. (Right) Adrianne Dunnett of Canada (USGT photos © 1984 by Dave Black for FUJI Film, Inc.)

USA's Valerie Zimring

(USGF photo © 1984 by Dave Black for FUJI Film, Inc.)

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CALENDAR

UNITED STATES GYMNASTICS FEDERATION
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
(Dates & Events subject to change or cancellation)
July 1984 — December 1984

SEPTEMBER 1984

29-Oct. 1	11th Int'l Tournament in City of Catania	Catania, Sicily Italy

OCTOBER 1984

1-21	RSG Training Camp	Colorado Springs, CO
13	Sports Festival for 90 Years Olympic Idea in Austria	Vienna, Austria
25-28	Four Continents Championships in Rhythmic Gymnastics	Indianapolis, IN
26-28	National Coaches Workshop (M)	Colorado Springs CO

NOVEMBER 1984

6	1984 Ontario Cup (M/W)	Toronto, Canada
6-19	South Africa Cup	Durban & Pretoria South Africa
17	Mt. Rushmore Cup (Junior Boys & Girls)	Rapid City, SD
17-24	1st Junior Men's Dev Camp	Colorado Springs CO
24-30	2nd Junior Men's Dev Camp	Colorado Springs, CO
30-Dec. 9	Pacific Alliance International Competition	*San Francisco, CA

DECEMBER 1984

1-8	3rd Junior Men's Dev Camp	Colorado Springs CO
7-9	DTB Pokal Cup (M/W)	Stuttgart, Germany
26-Jan. 6	Junior Men's National Team Training	Colorado Springs CO

* — Tentative
TBA — To be announced

(M) Men
(W) Women
(R) Rhythmic

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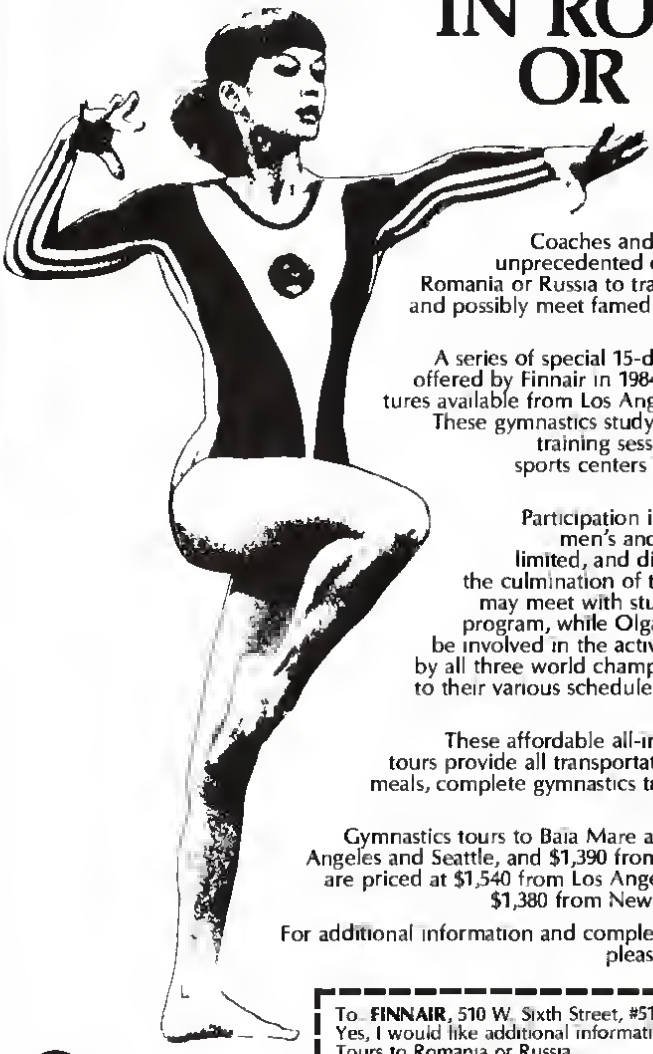

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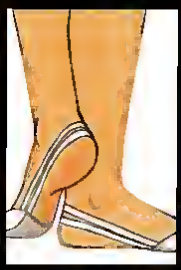

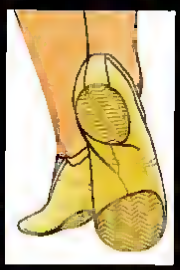

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